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Addresses: Storrs L. Olson, Division of Birds, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560, USA. Robert C. Fleischer, Genetics Program, Department of Systematic Biology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, 3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008, USA. Clemency T. Fisher, Department of Science, Liverpool Museum, National Museums Liverpool, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN, UK, e-mail: clem.fisher@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk. Eldredge Bermingham, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Naos Laboratories, Apartado 2072, Balboa, Republic of Panama.

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The type locality of the Hadeda Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* (Latham)

by W. R. J. Dean

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Bostrychia hagedash was described as *Tantalus Hagedash* by Latham (1790), with type locality Cape of Good Hope (*Caput B. Spei*), very likely from a specimen shot in September 1775 and briefly described by Sparrman (1783, p.293 in the original, pp.280–281 in the English translation). This is not specifically stated in Latham's type description, but the only reference (undated) given therein is to Sparrman's book. The page numbers match the English translation by George Forester (1785).

Latham's description of the type is extremely similar to Sparrman's description of the bird he shot. The locality 'Cape of Good Hope' is vague; although at that time it was generally used to refer to the Cape Peninsula (Cape of Good Hope *sensu stricto*), it may also have been used in a broader sense to refer to the south-western part of South Africa (now the Western Cape Province = Cape of Good Hope *sensu lato*). There is little doubt that Sparrman was the first to record *B. hagedash*—he noted that it was a 'new species of tantalus, called by the colonists hagedash, and also hadelde' (Sparrman 1783: 280). The bird was shot in 'Houteniqualand' (= Outeniqualand), identified by Sparrman as the area between the Great Brak River and Keurbooms River. This is the uplifted coastal plain south-east of the Outeniqua Mountains, with the western edge *c.*375 km due east of the Cape Peninsula. On his travels to the area, Sparrman proceeded to Geelbeksvlei near Mossel Bay, and 'after an excursion in Outeniqualand, went across the 'Attaquas Pass' [33°55'S, 21°58'E, near the Robinson Pass over the Outeniqua Mountains] to the Langkloof' (Rookmaaker 1989: 143). Sparrman apparently camped at Geelbeksvlei, and quite likely shot the 'new species of tantalus' there.

Although Sparrman noted that the bird was common, it is possible that he was referring to its status at Swartkops (Zwartkops) River, near Port Elizabeth, an area that he also visited, and not to its abundance in Outeniqualand. Until the late 1950s *Bostrychia hagedash* was virtually unknown west of Tsitsikama, where it was first recorded in 1959 (Thesen 1959) and subsequently by 1963 at George (Skead 1966), at the start of a rapid spread westwards (Hockey *et al.* 1989). Winterbottom (1968) noted that the species was recorded at that time only from Oudtshoorn (45 km north-west of George), but 'may well occur, at least occasionally, in eastern Mossel Bay'. Within the last 50 years *B. hagedash* has extended its range west and north; it was first noted at Somerset West in the late 1970s and by 1989 had reached Tokai on the Cape Peninsula (Hockey *et al.* 1989). *B. hagedash* is now widely distributed throughout Western Cape Province (Anderson 1997).

The type locality of 'Cape of Good Hope', if used in the restricted sense of referring to the Cape Peninsula, is not compatible with what is known about the distribution of the species in the late 1700s. The locality where Sparrman shot a specimen of *B. hagedash* is not precisely known, but it was not the Cape of Good Hope *sensu stricto*. Although imprecise, it is, however, the earliest published locality at which the species was recorded, not necessarily directly connected to the type description. The type locality of *B. hagedash* should therefore be corrected to the earliest published locality, 'Outeniqualand', which may be further restricted to Geelbeksvlei (34°04'S, 22°04'E), just east of Mossel Bay, and about 40 km west of George.

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Address: Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7701 South Africa, e-mail: lycium@mweb.co.za

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First description of the nest of Buff-tailed Sicklebill *Eutoxeres condamini*

by Brian F. Powell

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Buff-tailed Sicklebill *Eutoxeres condamini* occurs in lowland *terra firme* of south-west Colombia and eastern Ecuador and Peru. *Eutoxeres* hummingbirds are members of the hermit subfamily (Trochilidae: Phaethornithinae), whose members lack showy or iridescent plumage. *Eutoxeres* are unique in having stout legs, which are used to cling to *Heliconia* and *Centropogon* flowers, their preferred food sources (Hilty & Brown 1986, Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990). Although several nests of *E. condamini* have been noted in the literature (Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990, Salaman *et al.* 2002), to my knowledge this note constitutes the first detailed nest description.

The occupied nest was discovered on 10 February 1994 in closed-canopy forest at Jatun Sacha Biological Station, 20 km east of Tena, Napo province, Ecuador (01°04'S, 77°36'W, 450 m). The breeding season was previously considered to be perhaps September–November in Peru (del Hoyo *et al.* 1999).

The nest was suspended from a palm leaf of *Prestoea schultzeana burret* (Palmae), 1.2 m above a small stream. The nest was attached to a narrow leaflet, 55 cm long and 3–4 cm wide, and the construction commenced 15 cm down from the petiole (Fig. 1). The nest was 35 cm long, its maximum external diameter 7 cm, cup